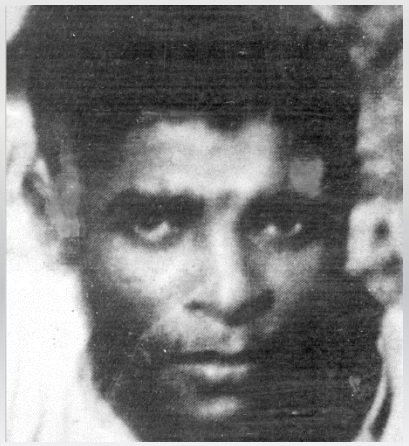
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Neville Douglas

Football

Inducted in 1989

Yet another product of the Belmont sports hotbed, 'Watty' Douglas' skill would take him to the greatest heights available to a player in his era, becoming one of Trinidad and Tobago's first professional footballers.

Born in Port of Spain, he shone at football at his schools Belmont RC and then Belmont EC. A diminutive player with a great centre of balance, his ball control was extraordinary, his speed was evident. When he combined the two, he would dribble past defences with ease. Upon leaving school, he played in a private work league as part of his job at Eastern Foundry, before shining in the Amateur Football Association's second league, representing the Public Work Department team.

By the late 1930s the oilfields of south Trinidad were being developed at a rapid rate and Douglas was one of many players that chose to advance their working and football career with a move to United British Oilfields Trinidad (UBOT). Suddenly, Douglas' was playing at a higher standard, and he responded with aplomb, making the inside-right position his own. With John 'Bull' Sutherland – who had already been on the squad for four years – playing inside left, UBOT had an enviable forward line that would terrorise the opposition, which was evident in the way they dominated the Southern Amateur Football League (SAFL) for years afterwards.

His dribbling down the flank, leading to accurate passes or taking on the shooting to goal himself, led to him being called up to the South side for the hallowed Red Cross Cup, played against North, one of the mainstays of the Trinidad and Tobago calendar. With Douglas in the line-up, plus many gifted players from the SAFL, South won the Cup (and bragging rights in 1939, 1940 and 1945). Though he was shining for UBOT and South, there were established names that played in his position for Trinidad and Tobago and kept Douglas from receiving that first national cap.

But come 1946, he got the call and made his debut versus British Guiana. He made such an impression in that first game, together with midfielder Allan Joseph, that a scout offered them both contracts to play professionally for the top Venezuelan team, El Caminos.

He played in the Primera División Venezolana for two seasons, scoring goals aplenty and again raising his standard, but it meant that he was

abroad just after his national team debut. By the time he returned to Trinidad and Tobago, there were younger strikers vying for the forward line positions. Douglas held his own, playing for a Trinidad and Tobago squad that went on the warpath in 1947, destroying Jamaica 6-0 in the Queen's Park Savannah, and continued national service until 1948.

He continued to play in the minor leagues until the early 1950s, taking on and beating defences made up of far younger players. In 1989, Neville 'Watty' Douglas was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.